

Appl. No. 10/551,880
Amdt. Dated June 13, 2008
Reply to Office Action of February 13, 2008

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner (1) provisionally rejected claims 594-597, 601, 529, 530, 538, 546, 566, 578, 579, 611, 581 and 615 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 242, 307, 309, 312, 317, 338, 339, 347, 355, 375, 387, 388, 416, 469 and 498 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/548,934 (hereinafter “Application ‘934”); and (2) provisionally rejected claims 529, 581 and 594-615 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 338, 469, 242, 307, 309, 312, 313, 315-317, 322, 330, 390, 391, 393-395, 400, 408, 416, 468, 484, 485 and 498 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/552,790 (hereinafter “Application ‘790”). Applicants amend the claims and respond as follows.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 521-615 are currently pending.

Claims 529, 530, 538, 546, 566, 578 and 579 are hereby canceled.

II. Claims Provisionally Rejected Over Application ‘934

A preliminary amendment was filed in Application ‘934 to add claims 242, 307, 309, 312, 317, 338, 339, 347, 355, 375, 387, 388, 416, 469 and 498. As the Examiner has not yet allowed those claims to be added to Application ‘934, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the double patenting rejection of claims 594-597, 601, 611, 581 and 615 in the present application at least until the Examiner reaches a decision in regards to the Preliminary Amendment of Application ‘934.

With regard to the remaining claims of the present application currently rejected over Application ‘934, Applicants hereby cancel claims 529, 530, 538, 546, 566, 578 and 579.

III. Claims Provisionally Rejected Over Application ‘790

Applicants wish to proceed with prosecution of claims 529, 581 and 594-615 in the present application. Applicants will not be proceeding with prosecution of claims 242, 307, 309,

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312, 313, 315-317, 322, 330, 338, 390, 391, 393-395, 400, 408, 416, 468, 469, 484, 485 and 498 of Application '790.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. No new matter is introduced by way of amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Office Action dated February 13, 2008 has been fully addressed. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-3953 (2725-27006).

Respectfully submitted,



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